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and to revert to his pages with continually increasing satisfaction.

If, without adopting any extreme views as to the rank which he must hold among his contemporaries, we pass to a closer examination of his writings, we shall find abundant reasons for setting a high value on his scientific and literary labors. In spite of his disbelief in the Copernican system of astronomy, and of some other errors which he upheld, it cannot be doubted that he rendered a real service to science by the publication of the "*Pseudodoxia Epidemica*," and that he smoothed the path for subsequent inquirers. As a writer, his erudition and his eloquence are alike worthy of admiration. His best thoughts have passed into our common speech, and become as familiar as household words. No man has written more persuasively or more eloquently of the great themes which engaged his pen in the "*Religio Medici*," the "*Hydriotaphia*," and the "*Christian Morals*"; and it is not probable that these productions will ever cease to be read. A writer who has received the united applause of Johnson and Cowper, of Coleridge and Southey, of Lamb and Hazlitt, and who has, indeed, maintained his reputation with but little loss for two centuries, must always hold an honorable place in literature.

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ART. VI. — *Ceremonies on Laying the Corner-Stone of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, at Binghamton, September 24, 1858.* New York. 1859. 8vo. pp. 184.

As the memorial of a new and auspicious benevolent enterprise, and as an illustration of the method and the means whereby the public welfare is secured and advanced in our country, the publication named above merits special attention. It unfolds a noble conception, and describes the beginning of a great charity. The State of New York, in addition to a most creditable array of humane institutions, similar in design and arrangement to others established all over the Union,—hospitals for the indigent victims of disease, for the blind, the deaf

and dumb, the insane, the aged poor, for orphans, for disabled seamen, — boasts also several establishments peculiar both as to their objects and their resources, of which it is sufficient to mention the Woman's Hospital, founded upon the beneficent surgical discoveries of Dr. Sims, and the School for Idiots, so successfully conducted by Dr. Wilbur. To these is now added the State Inebriate Asylum, already far advanced toward completion. The publication named at the head of this article contains a statistical and medical exposition by the originator of the plan ; the charter granted by the Legislature ; the eloquent appeals uttered, at the laying of the corner-stone of the edifice, by Messrs. Everett, Bellows, Street, and Dickinson ; with the discourses, on the same occasion, of the late Benjamin F. Butler and John W. Francis, whose earnest efforts in this behalf are to be commemorated by monuments within the walls ; — while the letters of citizens of the highest official and professional character, from the President of the republic to the Mayor of the metropolis, — leading merchants, authors, clergymen, jurists, and *savans*, — attest the kind and degree of public sympathy and social consideration enlisted in favor of the plan, — a sympathy which is not less manifest, in a practical form, in the distinguished and honored names of the Board of Trustees. An institution founded under such auspices has uncommon claims to favorable regard ; and when we also consider that the design is novel, that the success thus far has been most encouraging, and that the mere rumor of its establishment has elicited the eager investigation and the cumulative zeal of philanthropists and physicians in various parts of Great Britain, in Holland, and in the East Indies, we are assured that an endeavor to portray and illustrate the purpose, place, and plan of the New York State Inebriate Asylum cannot fail to be acceptable. Prompted thereto by a conviction that this institution is destined to be the parent of many others, that it is a positive addition to the means of social reform, and marks a fresh and glorious epoch in the annals of humane achievement, we deem it not unseasonable, even in the absorbing period of a momentous national crisis, thus to remember that "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than War."

The application of science to charity is a memorable feature

of the age. From knowledge combined with benevolence results the highest and most genuine civilization. Material well-being, under this benign inspiration, is made to coalesce with those moral forces by which society and its individual members attain their best development. At no period have those triumphs of humanity been so numerous and remarkable as during the past fifty years ; intercourse has attained a directness and celerity which have fused and fostered both enterprise and intelligence ; physical pain has been exorcised ; the laws of hygiene established and diffused ; vast social reforms initiated ; the processes of mechanical art ameliorated ; those of agriculture and domestic economy rendered at once more efficient and less laborious ; the resources of culture and enjoyment augmented ; and a permanent basis thus laid for advancement in all that belongs to the comfort and the elevation of man. Insanity is now successfully treated as a specific cerebral disease ; and when it is incurable, its victims are at least preserved from the worst consequences of what was once regarded as a hopeless and diabolical visitation ; and even when the instrument of the mind itself is natively imperfect, when the connection between motive power and volition, brain and utterance, thought and feeling, apprehension and fact, is inadequate, vigilance, sympathy, patient encouragement, and healthful care modify the conditions, develop the latent intelligence, revive the flickering flame, so as, if not to redeem the imbecile, often to brighten the life of idiocy. If, on the one hand, artificial luxury has drawn us away from nature in habits and sympathies, on the other, science and humanity have brought us, like penitent children, back to her forgiving bosom.

When intemperance had become a social evil of such magnitude as to vitiate the integrity of national life, it was natural that it should be assailed by proscription and prohibition to the full extent of legal possibility, that the clergy should bring against it the solemn protest of religion, that legislators should strain their authority to impede its progress, and that every moral influence, from the sumptuary law of communities to the sacred pledge of individuals, should be enlisted against the fatal scourge. The result has been all that such means alone

could reasonably be expected to achieve. A marked reform in the habits of society has been effected; the temptation to indulge in alcoholic stimulants is greatly diminished; fashion has established a more healthful *régime*; the national conscience is fairly awakened to the nature and extent of intemperance; its facilities are abridged; law and letters, personal example and public opinion, eloquence, song, art, the press and the pulpit, have waged an effectual and memorable crusade against it, the fruits of which this generation enjoys and posterity will honor. To a certain extent the evil has been thus reduced to its normal conditions. Its ravages continue; its hecatombs of victims still perish; but many of the customs and circumstances that fostered the vice in this country have ceased to exist, and although portentous and prevalent, it is so far limited and defined as to have reached the state which renders it amenable to scientific treatment. It is, therefore, as it seems to us, altogether within the range of providential sequence that it should now be approached with a practical insight and a humane efficiency heretofore unattainable; and we regard the successful endowment of an institution like the New York State Inebriate Asylum as one of the most benign and wise enterprises of modern philanthropy, destined to inaugurate a new era in the perpetual conflict which individuals and society sustain with this peculiar form of error and suffering, and to insure by the only available means a gradual and progressive triumph.

If we do not greatly err, this experiment involves important principles of social reform, especially in the distinction which it recognizes between constitutional and accidental tendencies, and in its regarding errors heretofore ascribed to wilful perversity as the result of physical causes, and therefore as susceptible of remedial treatment based on physiological laws. The charity, the forbearance, sympathy, and consideration thus created, will add new and hitherto unappreciated moral efficiency to the otherwise blind zeal of the reformer, and will not only ameliorate, to an indefinite extent, the condition of the frail and the outcast, but will graciously modify the judgment of society. No one who has not made intemperance a subject of philosophic observation and diagnosis can duly estimate

the varied forms under which it encroaches upon health and character. Where the human organization is viewed with reference to this subject, and in its relation to peculiar influences, individual and social, how many explanations of the prevalence of intemperance are revealed! When we reflect that the brain is the organ of the mind, that its instruments are bound to it by an intricate system of nerves, and that this delicate mechanism is capable of being stimulated or deadened by what is at the moment a sedative or a means of exhilaration, how natural that poor, weak, aspiring, baffled, worn, and racked humanity, when self-forgetful and desperate, should resort even to a poisoned chalice or a baneful drug, that exalts the consciousness into complacent dreams, or steepes it in oblivious repose! Some physical excitement, some vivid sensation, our nature instinctively craves; and when unendowed with the capacity to seek these in intellectual spheres, is it to be wondered at that resort is had to the most available means? The annals of genius, too, abound with evidence that high intellectual gifts are the least trustworthy safeguards against such a pernicious resource, and the very exhaustion of the alert and sensitive mind is a plausible excuse for the occasional indulgence which too often lapses into a degrading habit. While such refined men as Cowper and Schiller found in tea and champagne the favorite means of nervous stimulation, morbid natures like those of Johnson and Byron, rich organizations constantly drained by mental excitement, as in the case of Fox and Burns, were liable to similar craving, and were more or less warped and wasted by its indulgence. Who can read Elia's quaint, yet profoundly tragic, and De Quincey's metaphysical and imaginative "Confessions," and not feel how near to the most gifted of our race is this terrible scourge? Yet, in the last analysis, disease is frequently at the root of the evil. Byron was liable to epilepsy; Johnson was a hypochondriac; Cowper trembled on the verge of insanity; Pope's misshapen body cut him off from the excitement of athletic exercise, and drove him to the gratification of his palate; Coleridge was a martyr to pain, which opium alone relieved; Burns suffered from disease of the stomach and fits of melancholy, and what convivial associates first suggested as a respite from pain,

the life of an exciseman confirmed into a fatal habit. In these and other memorable instances there is a vast difference in the degree of self-control and in the kinds and measure of material alleviation sought; but they indicate the same abnormal tendency which circumstances and a more or less energetic will can encourage or restrain.

Apart from the temptation peculiar to nervous or morbid constitutions, there is the occasional intemperance of one class, and the sottish self-abandonment of another; there is the calm and cautious habit of the moderate drinker, and the wild excess into which the slightest indulgence invariably plunges the absolute victim of the habit. Society to one, solitude to another, opportunity there, unhappiness here, proffers the occasion or the motive, and these suggest an equally diverse mode of dealing with the tendency. Air, water, odors, food, art, literature, companionship, — almost every element of life and experience, — may stimulate the nervous system, and awake the thrill and the throe that respond to every appeal to sense and soul. According to temperament, sensibility, and habit, the “electric chain with which we’re darkly bound” is moved by coarser or more refined excitements.

How intimately associated with human history and character is this pervading and insidious habit, we may read in every record of nations and of genius. What Belshazzar’s Feast typifies in the remote past, Shakespeare defined for all time: Noah and Lot succumbed to the very enemy that subjugated Falstaff and Rodrigo; and the excesses of Scotch banquets half a century ago tell the same tale of human weakness as the Irish wake, the German’s beer-garden, and the bad whiskey that fevers the reckless politicians of the South to-day. But intemperance has, in a great measure, passed from a social abuse to a private infatuation; and it is chiefly with reference to this latter aspect that medical philanthropy, at length organized into an institution, proposes wisely and kindly to deal.

We know of no problem more difficult of practical solution, than to reconcile justice to others with humanity to the individual, in the course pursued by kindred, friends, and society toward inebriates. Those who belong to the poor and igno-

rant classes have, indeed, long been suffered to incur the judicial consequences of their habits, to people the station-house and the jail, or to suffer the extreme penalty of the law for murders committed in the frenzy of alcoholic delirium. Among the educated and more prosperous, the life-long grief and shame entailed by the excesses of a single member might challenge angelic pity, borne, as it often is, with martyr-like silence, and the forbearance of maternal devotion or conjugal self-sacrifice. The difficulty which baffles the affectionate and the conscientious, when thus afflicted, is to regard, on the one hand, the claims of personal safety and domestic well-being, and, on the other, those of a husband, brother, or son, who, proscribed at home, becomes a reckless outcast, and cherished there is a dangerous inmate, a perpetual care, and a fatal example. Hence the weary and tearful vigils, the incessant anxiety, the lonely struggles with pride, love, hope, terror, and despair, which, in the secret annals of domestic misery, attest the ravages of intemperance. "Even justice," says an acute observer, "makes its victims; and we can conceive no retribution that does not spread beyond its mark in pulsations of unmerited pain." If the eclipse of reason were permanent, an insane asylum would afford an appropriate retreat for these destroyers of tranquil homes, where love for them wrestles with duty to others. If the violence born of strong drink were conscious and habitual, personal restraint and confinement, under sanction of law, might be adopted without compunction. It is the casual nature of these effects; the repentance that follows; the noble and endeared traits of character that reappear when the victim is himself; the never-dying hope of reformation; the fear of utterly quenching self-respect by severity; the pride of family; the love once unprofaned; the thought of a final separation on earth, when death will hallow the memory of the erring to the hearts of kindred,—it is these, and innumerable other conflicting sympathies and duties, that make it so bitter an alternative and so doubtful an expedient to banish the inebriate, to hand him over to the civil authority, or to abandon him to his fatal appetite; and yet not to do thus is to inflict upon those near and dear to him a life of wretched apprehension and agonized vigilance,



destructive of peace of mind, and often of the capacity for usefulness and enjoyment. If the Inebriate Asylum achieved no other social good than to afford a safe retreat for the victims of intemperance, where they are out of the way of temptation, and provided with the essential comforts of life, it would prove an institution of incalculable worth both to society and to the individual. But these are but its negative advantages. Its scope is far wider, its object higher; its possible and probable results such as will not only meet a great social need, but work a vast social reformation; for its object is curative as well as protective. It is established, not merely to relieve society, but to restore the individual. It invites as well as restrains, and repudiates the idea of a punishment in the emphatic assertion of a privilege, such as the inebriate, in every lapse of his self-abandonment, and in proportion to his culture and sensibility, longs for as the one possible safeguard and solace of a perverted existence, — the privilege of sequestration from the reproach of the world, from the incessant wounds of self-respect, from temptation and despair, — the privilege of sympathy, of resources that may revive latent aspirations, and win mind and body to healthful reaction. Not as a culprit, but as an unfortunate man and brother, — not as a criminal, but as a diseased subject, — is it proposed to receive the inebriate. Removed, as he is, from the familiar scenes of conscious degradation, environed by the serene beauty and freshness of nature, subjected to a wise hygiene, and furnished with the means of salubrious recreation and genial culture, an opportunity is secured to cast off the thralldom, to heal the disease, to recuperate the exhausted powers; and, if too late for this, at least for the retirement and repose, the alleviation, and the moral support wherewith the “good physician” ministers to declining nature.

Such being the object, let us note the scene. There is a kind of poetical justice in the distribution of human and national associations around the picturesque rivers of this “land of many waters.” If the deep green currents and lovely rapids of the Niagara are glorified by the mightiest cataract in the world, the countless wooded isles of the St. Lawrence offer a distinctive charm; and while every nook and highland

of the noble Hudson challenges admiration and hints a memorable legend or grateful reminiscence, the majestic bluffs of the Upper Mississippi seem to herald and guard the onward tide of Western civilization, from the heart of the continent to the sea. The many beautiful rivers which are but partially navigable, or serve only to feed canals, boast respectively a special utility and grace, whereby their vicinage is embellished and blessed. Of these, few present so many amenities of landscape as the serpentine river which, rising from Otsego Lake, winds through meadow and woodland, by highway and village, beneath umbrageous hills, amid fertile plains, to empty itself, at last, into Chesapeake Bay. Campbell long ago sang its beauties without having seen them, and the "crooked stream," in aboriginal dialect Susquehanna, is associated with the most cruel of Indian massacres, and consecrated by that pathetic union of "beauty and death" which is the key-note of the music of humanity. Nor is the Chenango, or "pleasant" river, less winsome to the eye of the artist, who follows its less capricious flow through fields emerald with the hues of June herbage, and flanked by hundreds of lofty and isolated elms. Where the waters of these rivers meet, stands the town of Binghamton,—one hundred and fifty miles southwest of Albany, ninety south of Utica, and seven from the Pennsylvania line. The hills around are from three to four hundred feet above the level of the streams. The population of the township is about ten thousand; and among the best-known residents are John A. Collier, who has the credit of being one of the ablest lawyers in the State, and of having made the most amusing speech ever delivered in Congress; and Daniel S. Dickinson, whose house adjoins the old Indian orchard whose name it bears,—prominent in political life, and one of those who so nobly refused to "give up to party what was meant for mankind," and added his emphatic protest to that of the nation at this solemn crisis of her fortunes and her fame. In the rural cemetery of Binghamton is a cenotaph which marks the burial-place of General Whitney, whose public spirit as agent of the largest land-owner greatly promoted the growth of the town when, newly surveyed and organized, it took the name it now bears.

That small class of native travellers who allow themselves, when whirled along the vast network of railways that intersects and connects so many diverse scenes on this continent, to be won to a few days or hours of rest and observation by the tranquil beauty or picturesque attraction of the landscape, will instinctively pause and ponder at that point of the Susquehanna valley where the winding river which gives its name to the region blends with the waters of the Chenango. In his course thither along the Erie Railroad, he has, indeed, passed more impressive scenery, — looked down from sombre cliffs into forest-clad ravines, and beheld a panorama of river, mountain, and woods of primeval wildness and beauty, diversified by the evidences of the civilized skill and industry which guide the canal barge, laden with coal from the bosom of the distant hills, leagues through the lonely forest, to the populous mart of the seaboard, — which stretch a delicate wire across the wilderness, the sparse settlement, the thronged village, and the teeming fields, to convey, with the rapidity of light, messages of human care or love, — and which span the yawning chasm with a graceful viaduct, excavate the granite ribs of the earth into caverned highways, and bear, as on the wings of the wind, caravans of travellers through alternating scenes of natural loveliness, now wild as those Salvator's pencil traced, and now soft and salubrious in green and graceful fertility as that which Cuyp delineated. At the confluence of the two rivers the savage features of the landscape disappear. Instead of cliffs, we find long, undulating slopes of meadow, embosomed in a range of hills, many of them forest-crowned, and their summits often level for acres, so as to form productive plains. The grain-fields and clumps of trees, the pasture and fallow land, with the devious course of the streams, — fringed with woods here and there skirted by orchards, with the broad emerald surface of the adjacent meadows dotted with majestic elms, whose lofty and graceful forms give a certain dignity to the landscape, — combine to form a rural picture, somewhat English in its general effect, but essentially American in the hue, material, and aspect of the little town which forms the central feature of the picture. On a clear day in early summer, the spectator on one of the high natural ter-

racers can easily discern a sweep of hills embracing a circuit of twenty miles, clad in the richest vegetation, — the maples wearing a lucent and the firs an opaque green, — the face of the earth variegated by the golden tinge of the ripening grain, the fresh grass of the new-mown field, and the darker hue of the pasture or the new furrows.

In the social annals of the country, few names not directly associated with the government find more frequent and gracious mention than that of Bingham. The most refined hospitality of the time, and the distinction born of wealth, taste, and high breeding — then comparatively rare — united to give prestige to the Englishman whose mercantile talents had gained for him both fortune and reputation. These claims, however, were not admitted beyond the favored circle of the Philadelphia aristocracy of that day, without a protest from the democratic advocates of a less factitious title to social consideration; and “one of the richest men of the Colony” was criticised for the *hauteur* of his manners and the exclusiveness of his entertainments. It is evident, however, that he enjoyed the confidence of the most eminent patriots during the Revolution, and that his public spirit and private munificence justly endeared him, at a subsequent period. Moreover, his wealth and position made him intimate with the celebrities of his day, both in America and Europe, and he had rare opportunities to befriend the land of his adoption, as a private and influential citizen. His wife, who was evidently born to charm and cheer whatever sphere of life might be blest with her presence, was a daughter of Thomas Willing, and became the fairest representative of the society of her native city, ever celebrated for female beauty. William Bingham, according to the gossip of the time, was the first person who ever gave a masquerade ball in that staid metropolis, where Quaker habitudes so ineffectually struggled with fashionable aspirations; and it is recorded of this unique *fête*, that “the strictest measures were taken to exclude mechanics and their wives”; while one of the notable traditions of the Philadelphia stage is a controversy between a punctilious theatrical manager and the “beautiful Mrs. Bingham,” in regard to his right to dispose of her private box when not occupied by herself. Such anecdotes

are characteristic of the transition era of American society, when the encroachments of a privileged class excited the jealousy of republican stoics.

Of Mr. Bingham's early life, the account is somewhat meagre; but in 1771 he was consul at St. Pierre, Martinique, in the West Indies, and among his papers are receipts for the passage-money of Americans "deserted from the English" in 1777. It is probable that he loaned money to our government. It is certain that he "assisted" at Washington's first presidential levee, was a guest at his farewell dinner, and a pall-bearer at the obsequies of Dr. Franklin. It was for him that Washington sat for his first portrait by Stuart, destined as a gift to Lord Lansdowne; and to his wife the first President presented one of the two portraits of himself executed by Madame de Bréhan, sister of the French Minister. It is doubtless to the former of these works of art, since so memorable, that Washington refers in a note to Stuart, dated April 11, 1796: "Sir,—I am under a promise to Mrs. Bingham to sit for you to-morrow at nine." In 1784, the lady and her husband visited Europe, and were presented at the court of Louis XVI., where she "attracted much notice." Indeed, at home and abroad, she exercised, by the grace of her manners, the amiable tone of her character, and her rare personal beauty, an influence which has preserved her memory amid the evanescent records of social distinction. Jefferson corresponded with her from Paris. Mrs. Adams, when her husband represented this country in France, writes of her: "Mrs. Bingham has been twice to see me. I think she is more beautiful and amiable than ever." And again, meeting her at a dinner at Lafayette's, she describes her "as ever engaging: her dress was of black velvet, with pink satin sleeves and stomacher, a pink satin petticoat, and over it a skirt of white crape, spotted all over with gray fur, the sides of the gown open in front, and the bottom of the coat trimmed with paste. It was superb, and the gracefulness of her person made it appear to peculiar advantage." We have quoted these details of the costume of an American belle of the last century, because within the past year one of our native artists has felicitously availed himself of it in an elaborate painting, intended to represent a reception

of Mrs. Washington in the palmy days of Philadelphia society, when that city was the seat of government, and "fair women and brave men," such as have illustrated no subsequent period, graced the republican court, in which the artist has justly made Mrs. Bingham prominent, arrayed not in the colors, but in the identical style, which Mrs. Adams, nearly eighty years ago, so minutely described; while her expressive face and figure have been bequeathed with no less authenticity by the magic pencil of Stuart.

The Bingham estate in Philadelphia, by one of those local vicissitudes which seem inevitably to attend all public and private edifices in this land of perpetual transitions, must be familiar to many old Epicurean *habitués* of the "city of brotherly love," as having long been famous and frequented as the best hotel in America, when that institution had not grown into an immense bivouac. The "Mansion House," however, conserved only the dwelling once a shrine of refined hospitality. The grounds, originally quite extensive, and adorned with clumps of beautiful shade-trees, where soldiers paraded when Philadelphia was occupied by the British, have long since been covered with dwellings. The house was erected in 1770, and around the large enclosed area flourished the first Lombardy poplars ever planted in Philadelphia. Many relics of this memorable dwelling are still to be seen, in the form of antique furniture and rare pictures, scattered among the descendants of the family, whose name is now chiefly remembered in connection with a thriving town in the interior of New York.

Not only is that name historical as associated with the golden age of American statesmanship. The services which Mrs. Bingham's father rendered to the country, the mercantile eminence of her husband, and her own beauty and position, and the marriage of her daughters with two London bankers who are intimately associated with American society and finance, add links to the chain. Alexander and Henry Baring married daughters of William Bingham, for one of whom, it is said, Louis Philippe had proposed while an exile in this country. The inheritance of Alexander Baring's wife was nine hundred thousand dollars. She had nine children, the

oldest of whom is named for his maternal grandfather, and is the present Lord Ashburton, whose wife is Lady Sandwich. To revert to the fair progenitor of these fiscal kings, we may add, that her death was a social eclipse. Returning from a party in an open sleigh, she caught a severe cold, which settled upon her lungs. A milder climate was sought, and she embarked for the Bermudas, where she died on the 11th of May, 1801. The scene of her departure from the home and the community of which she was the idolized centre was long remembered by the crowd of weeping friends who attended the palanquin in which she was borne to the ship. Her husband, overwhelmed with his bereavement, soon went to England, and three years afterward expired at Bath, where his monument may be seen in the Abbey Church.

William Bingham was the proprietor of a large patent, lying on both sides of the Susquehanna, at what was then called Chenango Point. Like all extensive land-owners in America, he commissioned an agent to dispose of specific portions of this tract; and to facilitate its sale and settlement, he authorized such terms as would induce purchasers to avail themselves of the opportunity to secure "lots" in a region where so many natural advantages combined to indicate the site of a prosperous town. Fortunately this authority was vested in a man of intelligence, probity, and generous views, whose suggestions the owner wisely adopted. These were made with wise regard to the prospective growth of the place; and under the auspices of General Whitney, Mr. Bingham conveyed spacious sites for a court-house and other public improvements. The first survey of the land where now stands the flourishing town of Binghamton was commenced in 1800, and a new and more complete survey was effected in 1835. The town is two miles in length, from east to west, and a mile and a half broad, from north to south. The streets are lined with dwellings, before and around which the shrubbery is exuberant; and the business thoroughfares soon exhibited all the tokens of a busy mart. Banks and factories, mills and founderies, betokened the rapid development of economical resources; church-spires rose, as usual, representative of many sects; and among these temples, the Episcopal Church resembles one of those

gray stone chapels which lend such a charm to the villages of Old England,—in an architectural point of view, a remarkable exception to the anomalous structures so often seen in our cities, and justly regarded as the *capo d'opera* of Upjohn.

While there is little in the buildings to distinguish this from other inland towns of the State, few can boast a more rural character, — a feature derived in part from the broad sweep of the adjacent meadows and wooded elevations, and in part from the number and variety of beautiful shade-trees which adorn the streets, and from the clear waters of the two romantic streams, spanned by long and lofty bridges, and fringed with grassy banks whence depend the graceful boughs of elm, willow, and maple. Until within a brief period this spot, where “the meeting of the waters” lends such crystal animation to the landscape, was the nucleus of an extensive lumber-trade, and immense rafts of timber vied with canal barges as tokens of local industry and traffic. This form of enterprise has diminished as the neighboring woods have been thinned, and, although a few manufactures flourish there, the place has grown more exclusively agricultural,—an auspicious circumstance as regards the population, in view of the great public charity now identified with the scene. Indeed, the economy not less than the natural beauty of Binghamton, its situation, aspect, and resources, justify its selection as one of the best possible locations for the first Inebriate Asylum. Abundantly supplied with the products of farm and dairy, accessible with equal facility from New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore by lines of railroad in constant operation, seated very nearly in the centre of the State, inhabited by a thrifty and intelligent population, blessed with a rich alluvial soil, connected with the coal-mines of Pennsylvania on the one hand and the grain-fields of Western New York on the other, by canal with Utica and by a nearly completed railway with Albany, surrounded by hilly uplands and watered by bountiful rivers, while linked on all sides, by the genius of modern intercourse, with capital, metropolis, the interior, and the seaboard, it at the same time is embosomed in rural seclusion. It thus apparently embraces all those conditions of salubrity, access, sequestration, and attractive scenery, so essential to the



beneficent reform by which the perverted instincts of humanity are redeemed through the maternal benison of Nature. The sympathy of the inhabitants in the noble enterprise of which their beautiful district is the chosen site, has not only been manifested by a donation of two hundred and fifty acres for the Asylum buildings and grounds, but is constantly exhibited in presents of stock, trees, and other requisites for the institution, and liberal deduction in the price of labor and transportation, as well as in the most cordial personal co-operation.

It is to individual zeal, assiduity, and gratuitous labors that we owe this noble institution. Peculiar experience as a physician and a man, about sixteen years ago, drew the earnest attention of Dr. J. Edward Turner, a native of Maine, and an *élève* of the Massachusetts Medical School, to the subject of intemperance, as a consequence of morbid conditions of the animal economy, a specific diseased habit, and a vast social and national evil. A partial study of its pathology so enlisted his professional interest, that the spectacle of its incalculable ravages in his own country, and a conviction of the inadequacy of the measures instituted to withstand its prevalence, led him to a resolution to examine its history and character in other lands, and, if possible, to make it the object of medical as well as moral treatment on a large scale. He passed twelve years in the study of the subject; he visited the principal cities of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, the United States, and Canada, collecting statistics of the vice and phenomena of the disease, — making hundreds of dissections to note its morbid conditions; and, on returning to his native country, he laid the result of his researches before the most eminent living members of his profession, and, armed with their deliberate opinions, appealed to the public spirit and the Christian benevolence of the State of New York, to co-operate with him in the establishment of an Inebriate Asylum. His success in the treatment of several cases deemed hopeless won for his project the respect of a certain number of intelligent and influential persons; the medical fraternity recognized the need and value of his labors; and a few earnest individuals, whose private experience gave them ample reason to hail the prospect of such an enterprise, advocated his cause. But, like all pro-

jectors of new schemes of social reform, he met with no small share of ridicule and of opposition. Fortunately, Dr. Turner had the self-reliance and persistency indispensable to success; and, choosing for the first allies in his philanthropic enterprise Drs. Valentine Mott and John W. Francis of New York, through the emphatic indorsement of the one and the ardent advocacy of the other he soon gained the sympathies of scientific lovers of humanity. We consider the remarkable success, however, which has attended this enterprise, as in no small degree owing to the fact that an individual, instead of an association, initiated and conducted it. To this we ascribe the economy of the fiscal arrangements, the rapid advancement of the work, the enlistment of public men in its behalf, and the effective manner in which the great undertaking has been carried on;—so true is it that one man, with all his heart and wit devoted to a cause, will achieve more than twenty among whom the responsibility is divided. Dr. Turner has not only been the most able expositor of his own vast project, but, by personal appeals, he collected a hundred thousand dollars toward the building fund, secured the advocacy of the press and the pulpit, and, by dint of sheer perseverance, obtained a liberal charter and grants from the Legislature of the State, besides superintending the erection of the edifice, enlightening public opinion, attracting public sympathy, and thus constantly enhancing the moral and material aid requisite for ultimate and complete success. He has acted upon a conviction that the best minds of the country should be identified with the cause to insure its legitimate triumph; and, though venal legislators and narrow financiers have from time to time thwarted him, they have never turned him from his path. In comparing the expense already incurred with that which similar public edifices have cost, it is remarkable how large an amount individual supervision, and the freedom from subordinate agents, who always intervene between corporate bodies and their fulfilled contracts, have saved.

Dr. Turner has demonstrated that many inebriates, and perhaps nearly all of the class usually regarded as hopeless, are so from hereditary physical causes; that they must be treated as the subjects of a disease, and can be rescued only

by hygienic means. He has carefully studied, not only the effect of stimulants upon the human system, and the primary causes of the morbid appetite for them, but has so intelligently experimented with ameliorating processes, as, in many instances, to have wrought cures where the later stages of delirium tremens have been reached. Add to the salutary discipline of wise medical treatment, the moral agency of sympathetic local and economical expedients, and it is evident that the elaborate diagnosis will often suggest and secure a radical improvement, and always a most desirable alleviation.

The hereditary nature of the disease of inebriety is shown by the statistics of insanity. Eighty per cent of more than a thousand cases of delirium tremens which came under the observation of Dr. Turner were the cases of children of intemperate parents; and the amount and character of the medical testimony recorded in his letter to the Governor of the State establishes the inference, that, "without such an institution as this Asylum, the physician has been compelled to turn from his patient, discouraged, disheartened, and defeated, and the victim of this painful malady, be he rich or poor, high or low, educated or uneducated, alike must find a drunkard's death and a drunkard's grave. With this institution, we can save hundreds who are now crowding our insane asylums, inundating our courts, dying in our prisons, and perishing in our streets."

It is well known that stimulants are of two classes as to their nature and action,—the one exciting primarily the nervous, and the other the circulatory systems. The latter are alcoholic; the former are tonic, and comprise, besides the common articles of tea and coffee, numerous vegetable products included in the *materia medica*, as well as others more properly hygienic. To these may be added those congenial moral excitements, the scientific application of which is no small part of the philosophy of æsthetics and education. The use of these agencies, with judicious restraints, and with insight and sympathy, is adequate to produce results as yet quite unrecognized. This benign ministry, it is obvious, can be realized only when the patient is under the entire control of the physician,—removed, not only from the opportunity of indulgence, but from

the conscious degradation which is one of its worst consequences. These conditions are met by the *régime*, arrangement, and resources of the Inebriate Asylum. The noble edifice consecrated to this work of love is worthy of so humane an object. It is erected on one of the many green and broad hills around the town of Binghamton, at the distance of about two miles from it, — thus commanding a view rarely equalled for extent and beauty, within easy reach of the market and the railway station, and yet sufficiently secluded to keep the institution wholly apart from the busy haunts of men. The domain, of which it forms the imposing ornament and centre, includes, at present, two hundred and fifty-two acres, agreeably diversified by level and upland, meadow and arable land. On one side flows the Susquehanna, with its placid and crystal curves overhung with trees or bordered by grassy banks; on the other, crowning a lofty ridge is a grove, where flourish the maple, reflecting in crimson tints the autumnal sun; the dogwood, cheering the eye with early blossoms in spring; and the fir, enlivening with verdure the winter landscape. Between the ranks of these sylvan guardians of the hill-side, paths are to be cut on which the invalid can loiter and muse. The adjacent ground is full of springs, whence it is intended to feed, both for ornament and use, several large fountains. A slate-quarry conveniently at hand furnishes requisite material for construction and repairs. In another direction, a large vegetable garden, fields of grain, pastures, and meadow-land, constitute a rich farm, which, while it yields all the vegetable products and fodder needed, will give profitable occupation to the poorer inmates. An extensive lawn, that slopes gently down to the river and highway, forms a beautiful and appropriate foreground, and its emerald hue finely contrasts with the neutral tint of the grand structure, which rises in massive and symmetrical proportions, visible for miles around, and crowning with a temple of humanity the luxuriant aspect of nature.

The New York State Inebriate Asylum is a castellated Gothic edifice, three hundred and seventy-five feet in length, and three stories in height. It is built of that species of limestone known as gray marble, from the Syracuse quarry, a

material, from its dense texture, its subdued tint, and its capacity to resist the elements, admirably adapted to a grand public structure. Its walls, seven feet thick, are laid in cement, and erected with a deliberate care that insures permanent solidity. It combines to a remarkable degree the strength and beauty in whose union consists the perfection of architecture. Nor are the embellishments of the edifice merely ornamental; for every turret is the avenue of ventilation or water supplies, or contributes otherwise to the economical arrangements of the interior. Moreover, the design of the whole is such as to admit of harmonious extension, as future need may require. A tablet over the main entrance is inscribed with the date of the foundation. There are three hundred and fifty rooms, each with one hot-air and two escape flues. Five miles of iron pipe radiate through the building, conveying steam for warming the apartments, while an immense fan-wheel, worked by an engine, propels the cold air from the spacious tower, open at the top and surmounting the roof to the height of twenty feet. The voluminous current pervading this air-aqueduct flows over the net-work of iron pipes, which are covered with felt to prevent the cold air from cooling them, and in summer the hot register thus becoming a cool one. There are to be five large boilers in the engine-room. A separate building is provided for the worst class of patients, whose vicinity might annoy or demoralize those less afflicted. The kitchen is in a distinct edifice, the food being conveyed thence by a subterranean railway communicating with the basement of the main building. Apartments for the reception of visitors, meetings of the trustees, business transactions, and social reunions, — airy, commodious, and accessible, — occupy the ground floor. The meals are to be furnished in the rooms of the patients, thus avoiding that forced contact of anomalous cases and that ungenial companionship which are so revolting to self-respect. There is ample provision for warm and cold bathing. The most beautiful apartment is the chapel, which is placed in the centre of the structure, with the loftiest ceiling, the broadest outlook, and the most ample proportions. Its height is forty feet, and its breadth eighty-two; and when completed, with its beautiful

stained-glass window, grand organ, chastely decorated walls, tablets and effigies of the benefactors, and all the sacred ornaments of religious architecture, it will prove a shrine where the tears of penitence may fall unchecked by the cold observation of the world, and where poor, struggling, baffled, yet aspiring humanity may find unutterable consolation and divine encouragement. Nor have the intellectual wants of the inmates been neglected. Next to the chapel, the library—sixty feet by thirty in area—is the most attractive of the public rooms.

While it is intended that, to a certain extent, the institution shall be self-supporting, the plan offers all the comforts consistent with the indispensable discipline which individual wealth can purchase; and if a class of privileged boarders contribute to the support of the Asylum, the opportunity is not less available to the indigent, by moderate labor, to secure for themselves at once the shelter and the care they need. The payment of five thousand dollars endows a bed in perpetuity. It is thus easy to provide, by will or immediate outlay, for the welfare of the chronic inebriate, and temporary and comparatively moderate expense will obtain refuge and medical supervision for the many who may thus be restored to themselves and society. Already the applications for admission have reached some thousands. We have reason to believe that this new charity so commends itself to public appreciation and to private necessities, that it is destined to attract the munificence of the wealthy, both in the form of individual endowments and of generous bequests; so that, although the present unparalleled and depressed state of the country makes it expedient to postpone all direct appeals for pecuniary aid, except for imminent patriotic objects, the judicious arrangements and excellent charter of the New York Inebriate Asylum, with the provision already secured from the State and promised by individuals, will amply sustain its progress and confirm its prosperity.